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L1: Entry 10 of 17

File: PGPB

Aug 8, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020107884 A1

TITLE: Prioritizing and visually distinguishing sets of hyperlinks in hypertext world wide web documents in accordance with weights based upon attributes of web documents linked to such hyperlinks

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0008] In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, the Web browser further includes means for prefetching from the Web hypertext documents respectively linked to the preferred set of hyperlinks prior to a user selection of any hyperlinks in said set. An example of such prefetching is described in copending patent application Ser. No. 09/306,197, John M. Mullaly et al., filed May 6, 1999, and assigned to the same assignee of the present invention.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0027] The browser is provided with the further capability of sorting the hyperlinks in each received Web document and prioritizing such hyperlinks based upon the weights of their linked Web documents, step 82 (such weights are often obtainable through the search engines). The browser is also provided with the capability of visually distinguishing sets of hyperlinks of selected priority levels from the other hyperlinks on the displayed received Web page, step 83. The browser is further provided, step 84, with the capability to distinguish sets of hyperlinks through color, brightness, blinking or by showing only the high priority hyperlinks as active hyperlinks (FIG. 5). Finally, the browser is provided with the capability to prefetch the high priority hyperlink documents which are linked to the set of hyperlinks prior to any user selection of any hyperlinks to thereby further speed up the selection and access times for receiving Web documents, step 85.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0028] The running of the process setup in FIG. 6 and described in connection with FIGS. 3 through 5 will now be described with respect to the flowchart of FIG. 7. The browser accesses a Web page at the receiving display station, step 90. A determination is made at the browser as to whether the search engine can provide any information as to the relative weights of the Web documents linked to the hyperlinks in the received Web page, step 91. If No, the received Web page is displayed in the conventional manner, step 92. If Yes, then the browser gets from the search engine, the weights of the Web documents linked to the hyperlinks in the received Web page, step 93. The Web browser then prioritizes the hyperlinks according to the weights of the linked Web documents, step 94. The browser then visually highlights a set of higher priority hyperlinks on the received Web page, step 95. Optionally, as shown by the dashed lines, the browser may also prefetch off the Web, the Web documents linked to the highlighted set of hyperlinks, step 96. Now the user may work with the highlighted received Web page. A determination is then made as to whether the user has selected a hyperlink to a Web document, step 97. If Yes, the process is branched via "A" back to step 90 where the linked Web page is accessed and displayed and the process is continued from that point. If No, then a further determination is made, step 98, as to whether the session is over. If No, the process returns to step 97 where a user selection of a hyperlink is awaited. If the determination from step 98 is Yes, the session is ended and exited.

## CLAIMS:

13. The Web communication network system of claim 12 wherein said Web browser further includes means for prefetching from the Web hypertext documents respectively linked to said set of hyperlinks prior to a user selection of any hyperlinks in said set.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein said Web browser method further includes the step of prefetching from the Web hypertext documents respectively linked to said set of embedded hyperlinks prior to a user selection of any of said set of hyperlinks.

39. The computer program of claim 38 wherein said Web browser further includes means for prefetching from the Web hypertext documents respectively linked to said set of hyperlinks prior to a user selection of any hyperlinks in said set.